

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01165 141800Z

44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 (ISO) W

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P O 141319Z JUN 74

FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 834

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USUN NEW YORK 052

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1165

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 01165 141800Z

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION, 6/14/74

1. SUMMARY: BOTH MAJOR NEWSPAPERS TODAY CONTINUE THEIR REPORTING OF NIXON'S VISIT TO EGYPT. THERE NUMEROUS OTHER STORIES IN BOTH PAPERS ABOUT ISREAL, I.E., FEDAYEEN RAID, THE ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND U.S. MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL. THERE ALSO LARGE ARTICLE WITH PICTURES ABOUT INHUMAN TREATMENT OF SYRIAN POWS IN ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT NIXON'S TRIP: BOTH AL-THAWRA AND AL-BAATH CONTINUE THEIR COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO EGYPT WITH FRONTPAGE (BELOW FOLD) ARTICLE WITH COMPLETIONS ON INSIDE. MOST EXTENSIVE STORY APPEARS IN AL-THAWRA WHICH REPORTS CINTINUATION OF TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS NIXON AND SADAT IN ALEXANDRIA. ARTICLE CITING MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY QUOTES PRESIDENT NIXON AS SAYING HE UNDERSTANDS ATTITUDE OF EGYPTIANS IN THE COMING PERIOD ON BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES. ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS NIXON INVITATION TO SADAT TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO UNITED STATES IN AUTUMN. ARTICLE'S DESCRIPTION OF TRAIN TRIP FROM CAIRO TO ALEXANDRIA SAYS THERE WERE HUGE CROWDS ALONG THE ROUTE AND AT THE MAJOR STATIONS. IN DESCRIBING TALKS WITH SADAT THE ARTICLE QUOTES ZIEGLER AS SAYING THEY WERE "EXTREMELY CONSTRUCTIVE" AND "EXTREMELY USEFUL." SUBJECTS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED INCLUDE THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, FUTURE RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND UNITED STATES "WHICH HAVE ENTERED A NEW ERA" AND THE DETAILS OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

3. ISRAEL: IN PAGE TWO STORY AL-BAATH HAS HEADLINE "\$1,500 MILLION OF AMERICAN MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL." ARTICLE CITING RADIO ISRAEL SAYS THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL HAVE AGREED TO START NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY AND ECONIMIC AID FOR THE COMING FIVE YEAR PERIOD. THIS PACKAGE WILL REPORTEDLY INCLUDE \$1,500 MILLION PER YEAR IN MILITARY AID. THE ECONOMIC PACKAGE WILL BE DTEREMINED IN THE NEAR FUTURE WHEN UNITED STATES DELEGATION WILL VISIT ISRAEL FOR DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS. ARTICLE CLOSES WITH QUOTE FROM ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON THAT NIXON VISIT TO ISRAEL WILL BE THE BASIS TO STRENGTHEN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THERE ARE NUMEROUS OTHER STORIES TODAY ON ISRAEL INCLUDING EXTENSIVE STORY ON FEDAYEEN RAID AGAINST SHAMIR AND RENEWED UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DAMASC 01165 141800Z

ISRAELI SHELLING OF SOUTH LEBANON. IN ADDITION THERE IS A STORY THAT INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE WILL DISCUSS ISRAELI VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF TEXTILE WORKERS HAS CONDEMNED ISRAELI AGGRESSION. AL-THAWRA, TOO, HAS A ONE-THIRD PAGE ARTICLE WITH PICTURES ON POWS ALLEGATIONS THAT ISRAEL PERPETRATED ASSORTMENT OF ATROCITIES AGAINST SYRIAN POWS INCLUDING SEVERAL KILLED, CUTTING AND DISFIGURING, TORTURE, PROHIBITION OF SLEEP,

AND NEGLIGENCE OF SICK AND WOUNDED. ARTICLE SAYS SYRIA WILL PUT THESE FACTS BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS FOR THE WORLD TO SEE.

4. DISENGAGEMENT: BOTH NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO REPORT ON THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND THE SUPPORT SYRIA IS RECEIVING BOTH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN. TODAY'S PRESS ALSO REPORTS THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH RESULTED FROM THE VISIT BY TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER THAT DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IS A STEP TOWARD COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AND THE RECUPERATION OF RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THERE ADDITIONAL ARTICLE DATED IN MOGADISCIO THAT AFRICAN STATES HAVE ALSO BACKED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AS STEP TOWARD GENERAL SETTLEMENT. FINALLY, NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT THE REGIONAL BAATH PARTY CONFERENCE WHICH HAS BEEN MEETING DURING PAST WEEK AND WHICH HAS DISCUSSED DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WILL ISSUE IMPORTANT COMMUNIQUE LATER TODAY.

5. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO PRESS COVERAGE REPORTED ABOVE SYRIANS HAVE HAD ACCESS BOTH TO LIVE AND FILMED COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT'S VISIT IN EGYPT FROM AMMAN TV AND BEIRUT TV. DAMASCUS ITSELF HAS BEGUN TO SHOW REAL EVIDENCE OF VISIT AS STREETS AND TRAFFIC CIRCLES ARE BEING DRAPED IN AMERICAN AND SYRIAN FLAGS, THE FIRST TIME THE AMERICAN FLAG HAS BEEN SEEN ANYWHERE IN DAMASCUS SINCE 1967. THE MUNICIPALITY HAS NUMEROUS GROUPS OF WORKERS PACING STREETS AND ERECTING AND PAINTING WALLS BEFORE UNSIGHTLY AREAS. THE MUNICIPALITY HAS ALSO ERECTED AND IN SOME CASES HASTENED TO COMPLETE NUMEROUS FOUNTAINS THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND IN SHORT A FESTIVE AIR IS BEGINNING TO TAKE HOLD. WE HAVE NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT NOT ONLY ARE MANY SYRIANS COMING INTO DAMASCUS FROM OUTLYING AREAS FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT BUT LARGE NUMBER OF LEBANESE ARE ALSO COMING WHO HOPE

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PAGE 04 DAMASC 01165 141800Z

TO CATCH SIGHT OF THE PRESIDENT AT ONE OR MORE OF THE PLANNED CEREMONIES.
SCOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, POW, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC01165
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740155-0606
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740645/aaaabmqe.tel
Line Count: 157
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 OCT 2002 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <10 JAN 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION, 6/14/74
TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS, EG, US, (NIXON, RICHARD M)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005